

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1-12, 14, 16, and 17 are rejected per 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mirzabekov in view of Guillet.

Applicants were advised on page nine of the Official Action that the specification appears to "disclose a non-obvious embodiment wherein OP-Cu mediated protein-DNA labeling produced 90 percent of the labeling at either the 3' or 5' end of the nucleic acid molecule" and that modifications of the base claims so as to recite this limitation "would render the entire application in condition for allowance."

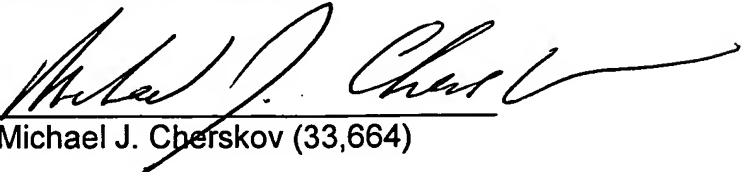
Applicants appreciate the guidance provided by the Examiner related to the OP-Cu embodiment and have therefore modified independent claims 1 and 9 accordingly. Dependant claims also have been amended to rectify any antecedent concerns.

Dependant claims 3, 10 and 11 have been canceled to avoid redundancy with OP-Cu claiming.

An earnest attempt has been made hereby to respond to the June 16, 2006 Official Action. Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 12-18 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephonic interview will expedite allowance, he is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Solicited,

CHERSKOV & FLAYNIK

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